

3 dead, 300 injured in Argentine blasts

CORDOBA (AFP) — A series of devastating explosions ripped through a state munitions factory in the central province of Cordoba Friday, killing at least three people and injuring nearly 200 others, authorities said. Flames rose a hundred metres into the sky as continuing detonations sent clouds of dust into the air over Rio Tercero, Cordoba, according to a radio reporter who overflowed the disaster scene in a helicopter. Houses near the Rio Tercero military factory were heavily damaged, the reporter for LV3 radio said. The first explosion erupted in the plant's powder depot at 9:00 a.m. (1200 GMT) and was followed by a series of blasts that grew in intensity and continued at intervals of 10 to 15 minutes for more than two hours. Gerardo Sirona, a worker at an adjacent petrochemical plant, said the first blast was of "terrifying magnitude," sending up a mushroom cloud over the town. Women and children fled to surrounding farmland after the explosions set off a wave of panic in the town some 700 kilometres northwest of Buenos Aires.

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PNA police hold Islamic Jihad suspects in new suicide blasts

GAZA CITY (Agencies) — Palestinian National Authority (PNA) police have arrested at least two supporters of the Islamic Jihad in the Gaza Strip after a double bombing wounded 11 Israelis, the militant group said Friday.

The suspects were seized at home during the night, the group said in a statement without saying how many were detained.

Palestinian security chief General Abdal Razek Al Majaida would only say that the self-rule authority had "taken preventative measures in the past days" to thwart any anti-Israeli attacks.

Two Palestinian suicide bombers died when their booby-trapped cars blew up near a crossing from Israel into the Gaza Strip, wounding 11 Israelis, most bus passengers on their way to work from the Naqib desert. One was "fairly seriously" wounded, the army said.

The double attack came a week after the murder of Islamic Jihad leader Fathi Shiqiqi on the island of Malta in a killing blamed on the Israeli secret services.

The Palestinian group vowed they would avenge his

death on Oct. 26 by killing Israelis.

One of the suspects arrested for Thursday's bombing is a man suspected of buying two cars used in the suicide bomb attacks.

Gen. Majaida, commander of the Palestinian police in Gaza, said the man was detained on Thursday night, several hours after the two suicide attacks.

He identified the man as a member of the Kahlo family and said he was being questioned on his links to the bombings.

No one claimed responsibility for the attacks.

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat apparently is reluctant to crack down severely since the bombings came in response to the assassination of Shiqiqi.

"Our mission is to reduce such attacks through dialogue and explaining to them that these responses will negatively affect the peace process," said Gen. Majaida.

A leader of Islamic Jihad hinted in his Friday sermon that his group has carried them out to avenge the slain leader.

"Yesterday was the beginning of the response and the

journey is long," Abdullah Shami, a clergyman, told hundreds of worshippers at Islamic Jihad's Al Qassem mosque in Beit Lahia, north of Gaza City.

In his sermon, Sheikh Shami scoffed at the self-rule government's calls for restraint and their warnings that more attacks against Israel could delay the expansion of autonomy to the West Bank.

"They are requesting that we remain silent so that we can return to the (West Bank)," Sheikh Shami said. "But we tell them that the land is not more precious than human beings ... that this could not happen at the expense of our dignity."

As part of the Palestinian government's conciliatory signals, Mr. Arafat on Thursday visited the Shiqiqi's family in the Gaza Strip to pay his condolences. Palestinian police also said a planned Islamic Jihad rally Saturday at a Gaza City sports stadium would go ahead as planned.

Still, Thursday's bombings were embarrassing for Mr. Arafat since they were planned and carried in PLO territory. Israel has warned that it would freeze its planned troop pullback in the West

Bank should Mr. Arafat not be able to rein in the militants and prevent attacks.

Israel filed a formal protest with Mr. Arafat over his failure to prevent the bombings, an Israeli military official said Friday.

Israeli officials told Mr. Arafat that after Shiqiqi's death there were repeated warnings of possible attacks, and that Mr. Arafat's security forces should have done more to prevent them, according to Israel radio.

However, Gen. Majaida said it would be difficult to prevent additional attacks because tempers were running high. "It would be impossible for us to stop them from retaliating, because he (Shiqiqi) was their leader," he said.

Another Palestinian commander, intelligence chief Maj.-Gen. Musa Arafat, has said Shiqiqi's killing put an end to a "gentlemen's agreement" between the group and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) to halt anti-Israeli attacks for the time being.

A newspaper said shortly before his death that Zionist

(Continued on page 7)

Balkan leaders study Bosnia peace proposal

DAYTON, Ohio (Agencies) — Balkan leaders on Friday studied a peace blueprint of "hard choices," negotiators say, after a first day of talks dominated by territory and war crimes.

Mediators gave the leaders of Bosnia, Serbia and Croatia four draft documents, including a "framework agreement," they hope will be the backbone of a peace accord to end 3½ years of carnage in Bosnia.

"I expect the parties will take a day or two to look very intensively at these documents... they represent the hard choices that will have to be made at the Dayton talks in order to reach an agreement," U.S. State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said.

The other documents cover elections once the war is ended, constitutional issues and the separation of military and paramilitary forces, Mr. Burns said in Washington.

Mr. Izetbegovic was also reported by Bosnian radio to have called on Serbia to intervene to stop Bosnian Serbs driving Muslims out of western Bosnia.

(Continued on page 7)



QUEEN IN SOUTH AFRICA: Her Majesty Queen Noor in Johannesburg on Friday with

U.S. to maintain pressure on Libya

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The White House has vowed to keep the heat on Libya to hand over suspects in the Lockerbie bombing over Lockerbie, Scotland, as the victims' relatives denounced previous U.S. efforts as "feeble."

President Bill Clinton was to attend the ceremony Friday at the Arlington National Cemetery just outside the capital where the names of the 270 victims of the 1988 crash have been engraved on a granite monument donated by Scotland.

"He will talk about the ways in which we can keep the pressure up... even seek ways to tighten the pressure," on Tripoli, said White House spokesman Michael McCurry.

Despite U.N. sanctions, Libya has steadfastly refused to surrender the two Libyan nationals indicted in the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 to be tried in the United States or Britain.

Mr. McCurry also said the administration would work to "keep others from trying to lessen the pressure."

He declined to name any particular countries, saying only "there have been from time to time within the Security Council some efforts to relax some of the sanctions."

But the spokesman also acknowledged the obstacles the United States faces in its campaign against Libya.

"There are, no doubt, additional things that could be done, but we have to work those issues diplomatically and gain support from others for that type of pressure to be effective," he said.

Such constraints have frustrated relatives of victims, who called on the U.S. government Thursday to make public all evidence it has against the two Libyans.

"After four years of failed efforts to extradite the Libyan terrorists, it is sadly apparent that this case will never be heard in a court of law," said Aphrodite Tsairis.

In a letter to President Bill Clinton and Attorney General Janet Reno, Mr. Tsairis and other members of a relatives' group called "Terrorism Watch: Pan Am Flight 103" demanded that the Justice Department release all its evidence against the Libyans.

IJC voices alarm over Tunisia rights activists

AMMAN (J.T.) — The International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) has said that it is alarmed by series of repressive measures taken by the Tunisian government against Tunisian parliament member and human rights activist Cherif-Chemmari and his wife Aya Cherif-Chemmari, a lawyer and human rights activist.

On Oct. 29, 1995, Mr. Cherif-Chemmari and Mrs. Cherif-Chemmari were prevented from leaving Tunis when they had their passports confiscated by a security officer at Tunis airport. They were on their way to attend a conference organised by the Mediterranean Centre for Human Rights in Malta. The security officer allegedly informed them that he had been instructed to prevent their departure and confiscate their passports, the ICJ said. No written justification for the confiscation was given to them.

The ICJ has written to President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, president of Tunisia, asking that the travel ban on Mr. Chemmari and Mrs.

byans. "If the United Nations' and the United States' efforts are too feeble and half-hearted to bring the weight of the law against these cold-blooded murderers, we can at least bring the weight of moral shame against them and their protector, Colonel (Muammar) Qaddafi," said Burt Ammerman, another member of the group.

Members of the Terrorism Watch group said they would not attend Friday's dedication.

"We cannot be there with the president until the administration brings about the justice we speak of today," said Mr. Tsairis.

"We are aware that this is a very emotional time for the families," Mr. McCurry told a questioner. "The memorial itself is being dedicated in the spirit of trying to heal the wounds" of what Mr. McCurry termed a "tragic and courageous attack upon civilians."

He noted that the cairn "is being offered as a gift from the people of Scotland. The president has been encouraged to participate by some of the family members, and he believes it is very right and proper to do so."

Mr. McCurry said the administration understands the dissatisfaction of families at the fact that two Libyans under indictment "have not been brought to justice, and indeed it is the view of the United States government that we must do everything that is possible to bring those suspects to justice. We have repeatedly pressed that issue, we have insisted that (Libya) not be granted any relief from the sanctuaries. Libya now faces until it is in complete compliance with the relevant (United Nations) Security Council resolutions. That will be our posture until we are satisfied that justice has been done."

Asked if he was saying that "no more could be done at present," Mr. McCurry answered sharply, "That is not correct. We are always pressing to find ways in which we can bring additional pressure on the government of Libya to release the two suspects for trial in either Scotland or the United States as required by U.N. Security Council resolutions."



CELEBRATIONS IN JENIN: Israeli soldiers keep order as West Bank residents celebrate the arrival of some 20 Palestinian officers in Jenin to replace Israeli forces in the West Bank town on Thursday. Some 1,000 Palestinian police will be deployed in Jenin by mid-November. Jenin is the first Palestinian town to be handed over to the Palestinian National Authority under the Sept. 28 accord signed between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) (AFP photo)

Washington urges Congress to untangle PNA aid

WASHINGTON (USIA) — State Department deputy spokesman Glyn Davies urged Congress Wednesday "to act on the administration's proposal for a short-term extension" of the Middle East Peace Facilitation Act "as quickly as possible."

"The lapse of the authority limits our ability to provide assistance to the Palestinians," he said. "The PLO (Palestine Liberation Organisation) office, significantly, would also be required to do with the Middle East."

"The peace process as a whole has been above politics in the past. We don't believe that the legislation so critical to the Middle East peace process should be held hostage to disagreements over how the foreign policy bureaucracy of the U.S. should be organised. Such a linkage is inappropriate at best because the lapse of the authority inhibits our ability to facilitate the peace process."

Asked if he was saying that "no more could be done at present," Mr. McCurry answered sharply, "That is not correct. We are always pressing to find ways in which we can bring additional pressure on the government of Libya to release the two suspects for trial in either Scotland or the United States as required by U.N. Security Council resolutions."

Mr. Helms thereby added

Palestinian aid to the ambas-

sadorial nominations and two major arms control treaties he is holding up because Democrats have blocked a Senate vote on his plan to eliminate three foreign policy agencies and consolidate them into the State Department.

The Middle East Peace Facilitation Act (MEPFA), an important tool of U.S. diplomacy, expired at midnight Oct. 31 due to a parliamentary manoeuvre in the Senate having nothing to do with the Middle East.

Mr. Helms, with the support of Mr. Dole, blocked the Senate from voting to temporarily extend MEPFA by objecting to an "unanimous consent request" required to bring up the legislation. Mr. Dole, in remarks on the Senate floor, said Mr. Helms would continue to object until the administration agreed to let his bill on reorganising the State Department come to a floor vote.

The MEPFA legislation allows President Clinton to waive certain provisions of U.S. law concerning the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), permits U.S. assistance to the Palestinian Authority, and allows a PLO office to operate in the United States.

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Report provides for an 18-month extension of MEPFA, but it is not likely to be enacted soon, Mr. Dole said. The expired bill would have allowed for a temporary extension until the conference report was approved.

Mr. Dole said Secretary of State Warren Christopher has voiced concern that "a delay in extending the act could be read as lack of support for the Middle East peace process." Noting that he shares Mr. Christopher's concern, Mr. Dole made clear that the Senate supports the Middle East peace process and has gone on record three times this year — June 23, Aug. 11, and Sept. 29 — to temporarily extend MEPFA.

Mr. Dole blamed the administration for much of what happened Oct. 31. He pointed out that it was only the day before the legislation was due to expire that the administration failed to file its written request for a short-term extension. The administration "refuses to deal responsibly with Congress," Mr. Dole said.

The State Department, Mr. Dole pointed out, wanted Mr. Helms to lift his objection to proceeding with MEPFA "despite its almost total lack of effort over the

last 32 days" to deal with Mr. Helms. Mr. Dole said the administration "has refused to provide information to the Congress about cost savings" to be derived from a reorganisation of the foreign affairs affairs.

Mr. Dole said Mr. Helms "is completely within his rights to object to any unanimous consent agreement... Contrary to some of the statements by the administration, Senator Helms is not insisting 'on getting his own way.' What he is insisting on is that the will of the Senate majority be heard and that the Senate simply have a chance to vote on whether to save money by reorganising our international affairs agencies."

Democrats objected strongly to Mr. Helms' action. Senate minority leader Thomas Daschle said Nov. 1 that tying the State Department reorganisation bill to the Middle East peace agreement "is the worst piece of leverage. It ought not be used in this manner. It's wrong. It's harmful. And it's a real threat to our long-term national best interest as well as to the ability that we have to play the constructive role (in the Middle East) we've been now playing for some time."

Islamic Jihad gets British-educated leader

The Daily Telegraph

A BRITISH-educated economics lecturer, Ramadan Shahlah, on Tuesday made his first appearance as the new leader of the militant Islamic Jihad movement, whose founder, Fathi Shaqaqi, was assassinated in Malta last week.

Mr. Shahlah, 38, was at Damascus airport with other leaders of the rejectionist Palestinian world to receive Mr. Shaqaqi's coffin, which was unloaded from a chartered Tunisian flight draped in a Palestinian flag.

Unlike his expansive predecessor, Mr. Shahlah has so far refused to make any public statement. His office in Damascus and the group's members in the Gaza Strip even refuse to confirm basic details of his background.

"We are living in a situation of exceptional emergency. Mr. Shaqaqi was well-known. But we refuse to give

personal details about the new leader for political and security reasons," said Abu Ahmad Issam, head of the group's foreign affairs department in Damascus.

Islamic Jihad vowed to avenge the killing, which it blamed on Israel's secret service. "This cowardly, criminal action committed by this killer and criminal state won't go unpunished," Mr. Issam said.

From the differing accounts of his life, it seems that Mr. Shahlah was born in 1957 in Gaza City's Shajaiya neighbourhood.

He had been a student with Mr. Shaqaqi at Zaqqizik university in Egypt, where joined Egyptian radicals in forming the Egyptian wing of Islamic Jihad, which assassinated President Sadat in 1980 after he made peace with Israel. But it is not clear whether Mr. Shahlah was involved in the attack.

The Palestinian wing of

Islamic Jihad became known in the 1980s for its attacks on Israeli targets and was among the early proponents of suicide bombings — a tactic adopted with devastating effect in the past two years to disrupt the Israeli-Palestinian autonomy talks.

He taught economics in Gaza and left in the mid-1980s, apparently taking up studies in Egypt and America. He went to Britain in 1986 and received his doctorate in economics at Durham University in 1991.

He is believed to have headed Islamic Jihad's fund-raising operations in Britain. He is also thought to have been involved in militant Islamic activities in Florida.

A father of three, he is said

to have spent recent years living in Syria, which shelters several groups opposed to the peace process, and Syrian-dominated Lebanon.

Israel has not admitted

assassinating Mr. Shaqaqi, but government ministers and opposition leaders welcomed his death.

Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority, worried that revenge attacks could upset Israel's planned withdrawal from cities in the West Bank, urged Islamic Jihad to show restraint and said it would take measures to prevent attacks being staged from autonomous areas.

Palestinian police have already jailed Mr. Shahlah's brother, Omar, for 25 years for inciting Palestinians to commit suicide attacks against Israelis.

But as part of Mr. Arafat's carrot-and-stick policy towards Islamic radicals, a Palestinian Authority "minister," Zakaria Al Agha, was among the dozen people and groups who paid for newspaper advertisements expressing condolences for the death of Mr. Shaqaqi.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Saudi Arabia warns Haj pilgrims

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia warned Haj pilgrims on Friday it would punish and turn back anyone carrying political or ideological publications. "Books, photographs, leaflets or any publications with political, propaganda or ideological content... are strictly prohibited" during the annual pilgrimage to Mecca holy sites, the official Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said, quoting interior ministry. "Violators will be punished and turned back," the statement said. The next pilgrimage season is in June. Saudi authorities have in the past banned political publications during the Haj, saying that according to Islam the pilgrimage should dedicated solely to God. Iranian officials have vowed to hold rallies during the Haj despite warnings by Saudi Arabia not to indulge in political activities.

Bangladesh's ambassador in Ankara dies

ANKARA (AFP) — Bangladesh's ambassador to Turkey, Mahmoud Ul-Hasan, has died of a heart disease, the Bangladesh embassy here said Friday. He was 52. An embassy spokeswoman said the ambassador died in an Ankara hospital Thursday due to post-surgical complications after he underwent a heart operation in October. Hassan's body was to be sent home to Bangladesh at the weekend.

Biran in disguise discovers Ramallah by night

RAMALLAH (AFP) — Israeli army commander General Ilan Biran has sneaked into the West Bank town of Ramallah by night disguised as an old Palestinian, military sources said. "I simply wanted to find out about the nocturnal habits of the Palestinians," said Gen. Biran, in charge of the West Bank and central Israel. He spent several hours strolling past cafes and restaurants dressed in the traditional Arab robes, the galabiyah, after having been carefully made up by special army makeup artists. Other elite troops followed him at a cautious distance also in disguise. "The Palestinians enjoy the good life and party until late into the night," Gen. Biran said. Ramallah is one of the six Palestinian towns on the West Bank due to be evacuated by the Israeli army by the end of the year under the Sept. 28 autonomy accord to allow elections to self-rule council to take place. Soldiers will remain in Hebron under special arrangements to protect 400 settlers living amid 120,000 Palestinians.

Turkish cultural club torched in Germany

COLOGNE, Germany (R) — Vandals torched a Turkish cultural club in the western German city of Duisburg early on Friday, but police said it was unclear whether the arson was politically motivated. Dozens of Turkish properties in Germany have been set on fire this year in a string of arson attacks that authorities blame primarily on separatist Kurdish extremists. A preliminary investigation found someone had smashed a window in the club and set a window blind on fire. Another firebomb was found inside the club. No one was injured, a police spokesman said. Residents in the three-storey apartment building where the club is located reported the early-morning fire. Three people were seen running away, but no arrests were reported.

OBITUARY

With deep sorrow and regret we announce the sudden and untimely death of

Eng. Moris L. Sawalha

Moris Sawalha was well known, admired and highly respected by the Jordanian business community and the international community here and overseas.

His presence will be greatly missed by his family, his many friends, colleagues and all who knew him.

Funeral will take place in Madaba on Sunday, the 5th of Nov. at 3:00 p.m. at the Latin Community Church.

Condolences will be accepted on Nov. 5th & 6th in Madaba. 7th, 8th & 9th Nov. at his home in Amman. Tel. No. 811051

Market Prices

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apples 700/500

Banana 680

Banana (Mukmar) 580

Carrot 180/100

Cauliflower 400/300

Geneva, Madrid (R) 190/120

Onion (green) 320/220

Onion (small) 320/220

Onion (white) 160/100

Garlic 750/600

Onion (white) 650/500

Onion (yellow) 220/150

Lemon (large) 140/90

Marrow (large) 200/140

Marrow (small) 200/140

Olives (green) 450/350

Onion (green) 400/300

Onion (dry) 250/150

Orange 500/400

Pepper (hot) 200/150

ANC is sure of victory in S. African local elections

JOHANNESBURG (R) — President Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) was sure of an overwhelming victory in the country's first democratic local government polls, ANC officials said Friday.

"All the results as they are coming in... confirm the trends and throughout the country, it is an overwhelming victory for the ANC," party spokesman Carl Niehaus told Reuters.

Early results Friday showed the ANC had around 67 per cent of the total vote and controlled at least 133 councils country-wide.

Former President F.W. De Klerk's National Party (NP), which created apartheid in 1948 and dis-

mantled it nearly 50 years later, had 28 councils, and independent candidates 23.

Only about 28 per cent of the local authorities had reported results so far and counting was slow, officials said.

Mr. Niehaus said the ANC, which swept to power in last year's historic all-race parliamentary elections, had made gains in many traditional white areas and especially in the Western Cape province — controlled by Mr. De Klerk's NP after last year's polls.

"In the Western Cape it is a victory in the sense that there has been a substantial swing. We have gained almost every major town in the Western Cape," Mr.

Niehaus added.

In the Western Cape, the ANC had the majority in 12 councils. Independents had won seven and the National Party, six.

Election officials say more than 60 per cent of registered voters turned out to cast their ballots in the nine provinces where voting took place, which compared well with the 30-40 per cent turnout in previous whites-only municipal elections.

The Liberal Democratic Party, the rightist Freedom Front and the pro-apartheid Conservative Party scored small victories, but many white voters swung behind the NP in polls that focused on grassroots concerns such as soaring crime.

Despite the ANC's diffi-

culties in fulfilling its general election promises of a better life for all after apartheid, most voters from the black majority endorsed the party that has led the country's unity government for the past 18 months.

The local elections will change the face of South Africa, with black power coming for the first time to local authorities that for decades were controlled by the old apartheid order.

Mr. Mandela, who came to power in last year's general elections, did not vote. The elections in Cape Town, where he is registered, in KwaZulu-Natal province and a number of rural areas were delayed due to demarcation disputes and logistical troubles.



MIAMI HOSTAGE TAKER KILLED: Members of the Miami Police Department take a closer look at the body of an unidentified man who was shot dead by police while holding 13 school kids hostage in a school bus in Miami Beach. The hostages were unharmed (AFP photo)

8 dead as ship sinks off Denmark

HIRTSHALS, Denmark (AFP) — All eight crew members of a German cargo ship were feared drowned after the vessel sank in heavy seas early Friday off the northern coast of Denmark, Danish Rescue Services said.

The body of one crew member was found shortly after daybreak by joint Danish and Norwegian rescue teams.

Officials said they feared

that the other seven had also perished when the vessel went down shortly after 4:00 a.m. (0322 GMT).

The crew of the ship, the Marie 1, comprised two Germans and six Filipinos, officials said. The nationality of the person confirmed dead was not immediately known.

The vessel went down 40 nautical miles off the Danish coast in the Skagerrak Seaway which

connects the North Sea to the Baltic.

Danish Rescue Services said the German captain sent out an SOS at 4:15 a.m. (0315 GMT) saying the vessel was listing badly after its cargo had shifted in heavy winds and it was about to

sink.

A second distress signal followed seven minutes later before all contact was lost with Antiguan-regis-

tered ship.

MQM stages new strike in Karachi

KARACHI, Pakistan (R) — The ethnic Mohajir Qawmi Movement (MQM) staged its 22nd strike this year in Pakistan's southern port of Karachi's Friday.

Witnesses said the sprawling city of 12 million people was tense but calm on a strike day that coincided with the Muslim weekend.

Security forces patrolled troubled eastern, western and central districts considered to be MQM strongholds.

The MQM called for a "day of protest and mourning" after Thursday's killing of 15 migrant workers by gunmen posing as policemen and the deaths of three MQM activists Wednesday.

Sind province Chief Minister Abdullah Shah accused the MQM of slaughtering the migrants from Punjab province, but said the government had no plans to ban the organisation.

"The MQM is responsible for bloodshed in Karachi," he told a news conference in Karachi, capital of Sind province.

"We have proof that this party is involved in terrorism. Whenever there is normally, such incidents occur because they want to prove their presence."

Asked if the government might outlaw the MQM, he said: "It is no solution to the crisis. In case of a ban, they will go underground, which could prove more dangerous."

The MQM has denied involvement in the attack on the migrant workers, one of Karachi's bloodiest in recent months.

Six other people were killed in Karachi Thursday.

Ethnic, political and sectarian violence has cost more than 1,650 lives in Pakistan's biggest city this year.

The MQM is fighting what it calls political and economic repression of Karachi's majority Mohajirs — Urdu-speakers who fled from India when the subcontinent was divided in 1947 and their descendants.

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"We are still only receiving very sketchy reports from every province," a relief official in Legazpi said.

Angela is the fiercest storm to strike the Philippines since typhoon Nina killed 1,000 people in 1972.

It struck less than a week after typhoon Zack killed more than 160 people in the central Philippines and devastated rice and sugar crops.

Traders said Angela, one of 20 typhoons on average that hit the Philippines every year, had destroyed hundreds of coconut trees in Bicol. Their reports sent vegetable oil prices rising in Europe and the United States.

Manila's financial markets were closed, all flights were grounded and the main business district of Makati became a virtual ghost town.

Rescue officials said 11 more people were killed in the nearby town of Naga which was also inundated.

Two boys were reported to have drowned in different parts of Manila but reports could not immediately be confirmed.

One person died on Catanduanes Island, off the coast of Bicol, which was the first community to feel Angela's wrath. Some 15,000 flimsy wood and palm thatch homes were

Super-typhoon devastates Philippines

MANILA (R) — Super-typhoon Angela, ripped through the Philippines' main island of Luzon Friday, virtually bringing the whole country to a halt, leaving a trail of destruction and killing up to 24 people.

He has promised to announce by the end of this month whether he will seek the Republican presidential nomination.

"We know from his record that Gen. Powell is a risk averse," said Paul Weyrich, chairman of the right-wing Free Congress political action committee.

"He may not want to run after this press conference."

"We know from his record that Gen. Powell is a risk averse," said Paul Weyrich, chairman of the right-wing Free Congress political action committee.

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The prospect of a Powell candidacy has riveted Republicans, dividing former political allies on the dominant conservative wing of the party. Polls show Gen. Powell would immediately become the main challenger to the frontrunner, Senate majority leader Bob Dole, for the nomination.

A Wall Street Journal/NBC poll published Thursday showed Sen. Dole with the support of 38 per cent of Republican voters, four points ahead of Gen. Powell. All of the other nine candidates were in single digits.

While some conservatives seek an ideologically pure presidential candidate, other prominent right-wingers have urged Gen. Powell, architect of the 1991 U.S. Gulf War victory over Iraq, to run.

Former Vice President Dan Quayle this week praised Gen. Powell as a man of integrity and substance.

"I want Colin Powell in the Republican Party," Mr. Quayle said. "I think it would be great for Republicans to have another prominent black American joining the Republican Party. We need to have more blacks in the Republican Party."

Party Chairman Haley Barbour said Gen. Powell was "very much in the mainstream of the Republicans."

"Our top priority will be to seek his defeat," she said. Ralph Reed, director of the Christian Coalition which is possibly the most influential group on the right, said:

"Mike Ferris, a failed candidate for lieutenant governor in Virginia, said Gen. Powell's political convictions were no better than those of Democratic President Bill Clinton.

Carol Long of the National Right To Life political action committee said tens of thousands of volunteers would campaign against Gen. Powell if he became a candidate.

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The report was issued by the National Research Council, a body created by

whole island of Luzon, the country's industrial and commercial heartland.

"It's hard to give an estimate when we will be able to fully restore power due to the extent of damage," said Joe Zaldivar, company spokesman of Manila Electric Co. (Meralco), the country's biggest power distributor.

The company's entire network was blacked out, leaving millions all over Luzon in the dark and dependent on emergency generators.

General Roberto Lastimosa, chairman of the Bicol Disaster Council, told Reuters 10 people, including a three-year-old girl, were killed when heavy rains sent tonnes of volcanic debris thundering down the slopes of Mount Mayon volcano near Legazpi City, the region's main town.

By late Friday afternoon, weather forecasters said Angela was more than 100 kilometres west of Manila, heading into the South China Sea with winds of up to 270 kph (167 mph).

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Jordan Times

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Zayed's timely plan

UNITED ARAB Emirates (UAE) President Sheikh Zayed Ibn Sultan is setting a fine example on how best to keep East Jerusalem Arab for all times. Sheikh Zayed has just announced plans to finance housing projects and cover medical and social needs of Arab Jerusalem in a bid to counter determined efforts by Israeli leaders to weed out Arab presence in the Holy City, whether it is Muslim or Christian.

Sheikh Zayed's move came on the occasion of the Jerusalem Week which was launched late last month in Abu Dhabi. That week, whose aim was to save East Jerusalem from Arab and international apathy, also represented a precious demonstration of Muslim-Christian solidarity on the future of the city. Pope Shenouda of the Coptic church, former Jerusalem Archbishop Hilarion Capucci and Egypt's Grand Mufti Mohammad Sayed Attiya Tantawi, have all lent their support in addition to Arab League Secretary General Esmat Abdul Meguid, Palestinian Minister in charge of the Jerusalem portfolio Faisal Husseini, Jerusalem Mufti Akram Sabri and Dr. Hanan Ashrawi.

There are several housing projects that have been authorised but still lack funding for their construction. In the new era of peace, Israel can ill-afford to reject Arab investment to reconstruct East Jerusalem. There is but one way to sustain Arab presence in Jerusalem and that is to rebuild the infrastructure of the east side in every conceivable way. The other Arab Gulf states, especially Saudi Arabia, can be expected to follow up on the plan by pledging equal amounts if not more to the effort. As a matter of fact all of us who are genuinely concerned about the fate of East Jerusalem are also invited to demonstrate our care by deeds not just words.

Here in Jordan we have every opportunity to pitch in both on the official and private levels. Funds provided into the proposed housing plans would be money well spent from a business as well as charitable points of view. Major financial institutions in the country starting with banks should spearhead the Jordanian campaign to come to the rescue of Arab Jerusalem.

This rare initiative by the UAE president personally and his country calls for reciprocity from other Arab circles. There is no better way to support Arab rights in Jerusalem than to build it up and satisfy its people's steadfastness and basic needs.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

DESCRIBING THE assassination of Fathi Shaqiqi, leader of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad group, as a barbaric crime, a writer in Al Ra'i daily said that the reaction to this terrorist attack is bound to adversely affect the peace process. While the voices in many parts of the world are rising now demanding an end to all forms of terrorism, we find Israel going ahead with its state-organised terrorism, disregarding all humanitarian principles and the calls of the world community for peace and security for all individuals and societies, said Mousa Barhoumeh. The writer said the assassination of Shiqiqi was clearly perpetrated by the state of Israel, which in the past committed other crimes like the assassination of Palestinian leaders, including Abu Jihad and Abu Iyad. The new crime is bound to fuel the resistance activity against Israel, especially as the late Shiqiqi was not a common criminal but leader of a group that chose the struggle against the Israelis to end the occupation of Palestinian lands, said the writer. By committing crimes against the Palestinians, the Lebanese and others, said the writer, Israel is endangering the lives of its own citizens and inviting reprisals and more violence. This is detrimental to the Jewish state itself.

AL RA'I Adwan, a writer in Al Dustour, described a decision by the Amman economic summit to hold annual conferences in other capitals to pursue discussions of economic development as one of the prominent results of the three-day gathering, which ended Tuesday. It is rather encouraging to see that the countries of the region are determined to transcend the bloody past and embark on a new era of cooperation to improve the quality of life and to secure a better future for the region, he added. But, he said, it remains to be seen whether such gatherings can serve as a substitute for the Arab summits and the Arab League, which have failed to deal with chronic issues that have been plaguing the Arabs for years. Indeed the man in

power on a scale unprecedented at the regional level will help fulfill the aspirations of the masses, he said. It is good to see different countries of the region launching cooperation to handle economic issues like poverty and unemployment and to chart plans for regional development, said the writer. But, he said, the Arab states can also revive the Arab League institution in order to attain similar goals through parallel routes not contradicting regional development but rather complementing this con-

Jordanian Perspective

By Dr. Musa Keilani

Hard work must follow MENA

AFTER MANY years, Jordan has hosted a major international event with flying colours. Notwithstanding many small little nuances, like the traffic jams and high security procedures, the Oct. 29-31 Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit was a huge success not only as far as the organising part of the conference was concerned, where Jordan played the part of an excellent host, but also as in terms of contributing to the very concept of regional economic cooperation and an alliance between the private sector and government.

Jordan was host for many Arab and Islamic conferences during the 80s, and the Kingdom has a track record of being a fairly good host. But the MENA summit, an unprecedented event, surpassed most of our expectations. Those who were looking for loopholes and shortcomings to be used as a weapon against the government and supporters of the Middle East peace process failed miserably. That is a shining feather in Jordan's cap.

The reason that the success of the organising part of the summit needs special mention is very simple: Had the day-to-day running of the conference, in terms of logistics, gone wrong, it would have been disastrous for Jordan because the international participants at the conference would have measured Jordan's ability to successfully live up to its commitments on the basis of those failures. And this would have had a none-too-significant impact on further considerations of the business opportunities available here. We have lived through it and we can now leave a sigh of relief.

As we absorb the warm feeling of success, let us remind ourselves that the summit was not in itself an end. It was not a one-time exercise to which every Jordanian contributed, directly or indirectly; nor was it an event that means that now having hosted it successfully, we could all go back to our lives.

We offered a great forum for government leaders and international, regional and local businessmen to sit down and look at the features on the ground in the region, the priorities of the various parties involved, the possibilities of business, chances for attracting foreign investment, and means of further developing the spirit of cooperation among the countries of a region, which have for long lived in conflict and bloodshed. Jordanians have indeed full faith in their private sector and the ability of Jordanian businessmen to follow up on what was discussed and seek out suitable partners and financing arrangements as well as whatever else is needed to launch business ventures. But that is simply not enough. What we also need is concrete government action to encourage the private sector by offering prompt official action and adopting measures that facilitate the private sector contacts.

It is simple logic that the private sector could discuss anything and come up with innovative ideas and projects. But this effort would get nowhere if there are bureaucratic

problems and legal hurdles that make little sense. But the key role played by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, who is leading the new economic thinking of Jordan, and the active participation of every member of our government in the detailed discussions on complex subjects during the summit, give us enough optimism to believe that the executive authority will also rise up to the challenges of the day.

The summit has firmly placed Jordan in the international economic map. But pursuing the contacts that were established at the summit would require a lot of hard work by both the government and the private sector.

One of the main thoughts that haunted us in the run-up to the summit was about financing. It is one thing to draw up projects worth billions of dollars and present them, and it is a totally different thing to attract financing, given the stiff international race for capital. But as we saw at the summit, capital will be available if we could prove to those who have it that we offer everything that makes an international investor feel comfortable.

Among the many things that bothered the man on the street was how any international investor would bring in capital to Jordan, given the Kingdom's high per capita foreign debt. But the announcement that preceded the summit was and was again highlighted during the conference itself that two independent international agencies have given Jordan "above-average" credit rating in terms of the Kingdom's external and internal indebtedness gave us immense relief. For one thing, as it was pointed out to us, the rating now allows us access to an international pool of funds that was so far denied us. The assurance that our government offered us that this access will not be misused for consumption purposes was all the more comforting. It also put to rest our fears that the foreign debt factor might negatively influence investment decisions.

In a regional context, the establishment of institutions to guide regional economic cooperation was another notch in the quest to bring about a focused approach to regional development. It does not matter where those institutions will be based as big as Jordan and the rest of the region could work together to make the best use of those institutions. And, the way things looked, on the final day of the summit, everyone concerned was determined to achieve success in realising the very goals that are behind creating those institutions.

In short, Jordan and Jordanians have every reason to be proud of having hosted the MENA summit and to look forward to positive interaction with the international economic community to create new facts that would precisely serve the very objective of raising the standard of living of the people of the region and gradually eliminate the factors that opponents of peace use to propagate their defeatist theories.

THE WEEK IN PRINT

Summit success a major achievement for Jordan

Reviewed by Elia Nasrallah

The local press last week focused on Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit which ended in Amman Tuesday, the question of Jerusalem and some domestic affairs.

AL RA'I daily said that the success of the Amman conference was largely due to the coordinated and strenuous efforts on the part of the public and private sectors. The success means that the two sectors are capable of working together and guaranteeing other successes in planning and executing projects not only in conferences, said the paper. Indeed, the Amman summit was a unique experiment for the Jordanian people who pooled their resources together to ensure success not only in the organisation of this international gathering but rather in the excellent creation of the required atmosphere for the business people and other guests enabling them to carry out their mission, the paper added.

The Amman summit was an event that opened the eyes of many officials and private sector people to the fact that the country is in bad need of a conference palace where delegations from around the world can meet and discuss politics, business and other affairs, said Bassam Haddadin, a writer in Al Dustour. While admitting that the conference was a real success in terms of preparation and execution, one cannot ignore the fact that Jordan lacks proper facilities for such huge gatherings, he argued. The country is in badly need for a multi-purpose conference palace, where meetings to discuss the economy, politics and cultural affairs can be held, said the writer. It is not logical to ask political parties, the business community and professional organisations and others to hold their meetings in hotels and halls that were created for wedding ceremonies. He said the march towards democracy and openness should be coupled with adequate infrastructure.

It is up to the United States, which sponsored the Amman summit, to make its results successful and this depends on its willingness to offer financial assistance to the coun-

tries that were involved in conflict for so long, said Tamer Al Adwan. The columnist, who writes for Al Dustour, said that the Middle East is not in need of a theatre where the lights are focused on ambitious projects but it is rather in need of funds from the United States, Europe and Japan for the implementation of a Marshall-like development plan. If the conference has been used as a mere platform to help President Bill Clinton secure another term in office, then the people's frustration would increase and the conference would have adverse consequences, said the writer. He said that the Arab masses, who had seen the United States providing \$10 billion in guarantees for Israel to help it create settlements in Arab territories, are expecting tangible and concrete and practical steps to help the Arab region attain sustainable development and prosperity.

Describing the Amman summit as a forum that projected good opportunities for regional cooperation, a writer in Al Ra'i said the ball is now in the court of the Western advanced and rich nations, which can ensure success for such cooperation. Mahmoud Rima said that these countries can help by making available the required funds for the projected Middle East Development Bank and through soft loans to the countries of the region. But, he said, nothing can be guaranteed unless the lingering Israeli obstacles in the path of peace have been removed and the Middle East has enjoyed a comprehensive settlement benefiting all concerned parties without any discrimination.

A writer in Al Dustour blamed the Arab regimes in general and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) in particular for Israel's disregard of the Arab and Muslim feelings over Jerusalem and the U.S. Congress's vote to move the American embassy to the city. Yasser Zaatreh said the Palestinian leadership, which deferred any discussion of the status of Jerusalem until the final stage of the negotiations, cannot blame the U.S. Congress for its decision.

Arab and Muslims regimes, which had failed to undertake an effective collective stand vis-à-vis the vote in the Congress, said the writer, are in no position to voice a protest since they are now friends of the Jewish state. Had the Palestinian not signed the Oslo agreement with Israel, the U.S. Congress would not have taken this decision, argued the writer, who asserted that the Oslo deal was the gravest sin committed against Jerusalem.

Ibrahim Absi, a writer in Al Ra'i, said that the Arab countries should not remain passive vis-à-vis Washington's decision to move its embassy to Jerusalem. Jerusalem is not an ordinary city and the decision taken by the U.S. Congress is of grave consequences, said the writer, who urged the Arab states to confront Israeli leaders' drive to perpetuate their annexation of the Arab city and stand firm in the face of the U.S. Congress to prevent the move from taking place. The writer decried what he called the Arab silence on the issue which could be interpreted as condoning the Congress's decision. He said that the Arab masses, who had seen the United States providing \$10 billion in guarantees for Israel to help it create settlements in Arab territories, are expecting tangible and concrete and practical steps to help the Arab region attain sustainable development and prosperity.

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What we can now do, as citizens, is to implore God the Almighty not to make JTV more devout by making all its programmes religious, not because we are infidels, but because any such change will surely mean that the government has signed a merger treaty with Israel, said the writer.

Traumatised by the new reality

By David March

PITY POOR France!

A Gallic conspiracy theorist,

pondering the state of the

nation, might ruefully im-

agine that France had been

brought to its current low

ebb by sleight of foreign

hand. While nuclear test

blasts echo fruitlessly

around the south Pacific, at

home the currency is lan-

guishing, economic growth

is declining, social divis-

ion is widening and confi-

dence in political leadership

is crumbling. Could this

be a product of the

French government's

inability to manage

its regional basis?

Or is it the result of

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Features

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Opportunities abound in healthcare sector

By Omar M. Latif

IN THE Mediterranean region, as elsewhere in the world, healthcare is viewed as a fundamental and inalienable human right. Health maintenance and disease prevention are increasingly receiving the same attention traditionally given to food, personal, environmental, and national security. Healthcare strategists are focusing on exploring applicable methodology that enhances cost-effective, high-quality healthcare delivery.

Jordan's medical schools have produced doctors who have been able to compete for admissions in some of the best residency programmes in the world. Postgraduate medical training conducted by the American and British-boarded specialists in cardiology, general and vascular surgery, infectious diseases, endocrinology and internal medicine of the Islamic Hospital and the Royal Medical Services are producing well-trained specialists.

On a regional basis, and perhaps on the international level, Jordan has distinguished itself in the quality and cost-effectiveness of healthcare delivery. Complex surgical and medical procedures are being carried out, successfully, at fraction of the cost to similar international centres. Cardiac and neuro-surgical operative charges are on the average 70 per cent less expensive than in comparable centres in the West.

Jordan's pre-eminence in medical services is multifactorial. Perhaps, one of the most important of those factors was the early focus that was given to the build-up of the human and material resources in the King Hussein Medical Centre. This centre is rightfully credited to be the facility that has graduated many of the excellent healthcare providers this country has. This centre has conducted complex medical procedures with great success rate. It thus has become a referral point for many of the countries in the region.

After completing their military duties, many of the key physicians and surgeons take up private careers in community hospitals, bringing with them expertise that has led to the setting of a new standard of quality care in private practice.

The fertile grounds for good medical care that has already been laid, encouraged the return of highly qualified doctors to Jordan after training and/or practising in the United States, Europe and other countries. Management of complex medical problems became possible in the public and private sectors.

Interventional cardiology grew at a rapid pace. Six active cardiac catheter labs are performing in excess of four thousand procedures annually. The number of open heart surgical procedures is steadily growing at a rate of 10 per cent a year, reaching to about 2,500 cases annually. Other surgical and medical specialities grew equally strong. Highly qualified neurosurgeons, plastic and reconstructive surgeons, pulmonologists, nephrologists, internists, oncologists, general and sub-specialist surgeons contributed to the rapid overall growth.

Jordan has become a referal point and centre of excellence in cardiac care, ophthalmology, in vitro fertilisation and other medical disciplines.

Neurosurgery, with the

new addition of the Gamma Knife is expected to witness further growth.

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BRITISH SCIENTISTS have designed a futuristic rocket motor, due for completion within two years, which could revolutionise space travel and propel the first humans to distant planets, writes Jonathan Leake.

The first operational ion thruster is being built by British researchers in cooperation with the European Space Agency (ESA). In theory, the type of rocket they have developed is capable of achieving near-light speeds, enabling man to reach Mars in a month, compared with today's estimated one-year journey time.

Its designer David Fearn, the senior scientist with the Defence Research Agency (DRA) space laboratories in Farnborough, Hampshire, believes the motor is the way to put a man on Mars. "If there is any way humans are going to reach the planets, then this is it," he said.

The first operational use of the ion thruster will be as a humble manoeuvring device for the Artemis communications satellite, due to be launched in 1997. If it performs well, a larger version, coupled to a nuclear reactor, could be used to carry unmanned probes and eventually humans to other planets, starting with Mars. "We now have the technology to do it within a decade or two. All we need is the money," said Fearn.

The development has prompted international excitement among scientists, especially in America, where research into ion thrusters is so advanced that a spacecraft has been designed and a reactor bought for it. But the project was put on hold after budget cuts last year, allowing Europe to catch up.

Ion thrusters use microwaves, radio waves or electric fields to strip electrons from gas atoms. The resulting ions are then accelerated to enormous velocities by a power-

Revealed: How to get to Mars in a month

MISSION TO MARS

Ion thruster rocket could be used to reach Mars in a month

SPACE SHUTTLE
Traditional chemical rockets are unable to reach the necessary speed
Max speed: about 25 km/second

ION THRUST

The first operational ion thruster will be used to manoeuvre the Artemis communications satellite

ION THRUST SOCIETY
The nuclear reactor would be separated from the core

in a long steel container

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Prices gain a little; hopes high at AFM

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit that ended on Wednesday.

The weekly report of the Amman Financial Market (AFM) said turnover for the week ending Thursday was JD2.9 million, down 38 per cent from the previous week's JD4.7 million.

The report said 1.8 million shares changed hands under 2,089 contracts concluded

during the week, where the average daily trading was JD600,000, compared with the previous week's JD900,000.

The official AFM price index, based on 60 major companies from among the 120 listed in the market closed at 158.8 points, up 0.9 points or 0.6 per cent, from the week's opening 157.9 points.

Stocks of 81 companies involved in the week's trading, with 34 firms gaining, 21 slipping and 17 remaining stable.

Brokers attributed the absence of investors and weak institutional involvement for the low turnover during the week.

AMMAN — Prices gained a little on low turnover at the Amman Financial Market (AFM) said turnover for the week ending Thursday was JD2.9 million, down 38 per cent from the previous week's JD4.7 million.

The report said 1.8 million shares changed hands under 2,089 contracts concluded

Suez Canal Authority cuts tolls by 20% after slump in traffic

CAIRO (AFP) — The Suez Canal Authority has announced that it would reduce shipping fees by 20 per cent from the start of 1996 after a drop in the number of oil tankers using the international waterway.

Mohammad Ezzat Adel, the authority's chairman, said a maximum fee of around \$500,000 would be fixed for tankers whatever their size.

He said he hoped the reduction would particularly lead to an increase in the number of oil tankers of 160,000-170,000 tonnes crossing the canal as well as other types of tankers.

The number of tankers using the canal fell by around 10 per cent from 1,396 to

1,288 in the first half of 1995 compared with the same period in 1994, according to official figures.

The total number of ships using the waterway also fell by around 10 per cent from 8,352 to 7,617 in the same period.

Tolls will remain unchanged for ships other than oil tankers for 1996 "in view of the current situation on the international maritime transport market," said Mr. Adel.

The canal's receipts, \$1.9 billion in the 1994-95 financial year, are Egypt's second most important source of foreign currency earnings, after the salaries of Egyptians working abroad but ahead of oil revenues and tourism.

infrastructure accelerate the dynamic, market for the region will add a new dimension to the institutions already in place.

indications of membership in the countries of the Middle East and Africa.

will represent continuing commitment to achieve peace among their people in the region.

their vision of a bank and opportunity to be an active partner in social development through participation.

SCOPE

SR SATURDAY, ER 4, 1995

21 to April 19) If our time well through with the future bright in business.

21 to May 20) With loyal friends in the past, and be stress. Avoid the evening.

21 to June 21) complete those which you have and tonight make pay pressing bill.

21 to June 22) dates for recreation have found the past, and be

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21 to August 21) keep any prominent family ties today.

21 to September 22) a good day to go you need at right time to make your and more profit.

21 to October 23) are more careful in business and you will gain success later.

(October 23 to 24) Rely on your past experience to be future and you later success. Use the highway.

(November 22) Have talks with who can give you your betterment, and members of your

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The NBA is back in action Rodman moves to Bulls, O'Neal out for now

ONE PLAYER, one trade and the whole picture changes. One broken thumb and it changes again.

When Dennis Rodman took his radical rebounding act from the San Antonio Spurs to the Chicago Bulls, he jolted the Eastern Conference back to life. Not even Michael Jordan's return for a full season or Hakeem Olajuwon's quest for a third straight title is attracting such attention.

Now Chicago is the team to beat, the Western Conference isn't quite so formidable and two-time champion Houston is searching for respect all over again as the NBA season opens Nov. 3 with two new expansion teams in Canada.

"The Eastern Conference, all of the sudden, is going to be a tough battle," new Boston coach M.L. Carr said.

The Orlando Magic will find out just how tough. The Eastern Conference champion, swept by the Rockets in the NBA finals, will have to play the first two months of the season without Shaquille O'Neal, who broke his thumb in an exhibition game.

Ready to take advantage O'Neal's early absence are the Indiana Pacers, the Charlotte Hornets and the New York Knicks as well as three up-and-coming young teams.

Washington added veteran point guard Mark Price in a trade with Cleveland, Detroit hired Doug Collins to energise the Pistons and Milwaukee is looking for even more from its frontcourt duo of Glenn Robinson and Vin Baker.

"I think overall the east, from top to bottom, is going to have more parity than a year ago," Magic coach Brian Hill said.

Certainly, the Western Conference is still loaded, with San Antonio, Utah, Phoenix and Seattle all having won at least 57 games.

After another first-round flop, the SuperSonics are vowing to play with professionalism equal to their talent, the Los Angeles Lakers are young and hungry and the Suns' Charles Barkley is back with new teammate John "hot rod" Williams to help in the middle.

But all that may not matter, because Houston has Clyde Drexler and Hakeem Olajuwon, whose dazzling playoff performances recalled their Phi Slama Jama days at the University of Houston. Even though Olajuwon missed the preseason following elbow surgery, the Rockets are looking to become the fourth team in NBA history to win at least three consecutive titles.

But the west may no longer be best, and one big reason is Rodman.

Despite claiming his fourth consecutive rebounding title, Rodman wore out his welcome in San Antonio by missing team buses, arriving to join team huddles.

"It was a sad, sad scenario,"



Orlando Magic star Shaquille O'Neal #32 will miss the first two months of the new season after breaking his thumb in an exhibition game (file photo)

interesting time for them. Behind O'Neal and the dazzling play of Anfernee Hardaway, Orlando advanced to the finals having never won a playoff game but fizzled against the Rockets, falling in four games.

"Our" returning players seem to have a little hunger left over from the finals," Hill, the Magic's coach, said. "I don't think we'll let down. I think we'll be a better basketball team. Whether we get back to the finals remains to be seen, but we'll be an improved team."

"Rodman gives them high, high energy, intensity and toughness," said Collins, who coached the Bulls from 1988-89. "There's no player with more intensity than Michael Jordan. You start combining these ingredients, and Chicago could have a devastating team."

Challenging the Bulls became much tougher for Orlando last month, when O'Neal, the league's scoring leader last season with 29.3 points a game, underwent surgery to repair his fractured right thumb. Filling in will be Jon Koncak, a free agent acquisition who has never averaged more than eight points a season.

"It will make it a lot tougher," Drexler said. "He (O'Neal) commands so much attention on offense and defense. It's going to be an aging Knicks team for sunny Miami. Pat Riley signed a five-year contract that includes \$15 million in salary, a 20 per cent ownership stake in the Heat and other lucrative benefits, an unprecedented package for a coach in any professional sport. By taking over a team that has only one winning season in its seven-year history, he added another pinch of spice to the

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Sports

Bayern, Benfica to meet in UEFA 3rd round

GENEVA (AP) — After downing soccer minnow Raiters in the last round, Bayern Munich now must beat one of Europe's giants, Benfica, to gain the quarterfinal of the UEFA Cup.

The Portuguese team is a two-time winner and four-time finalist in the Champions Cup and Bayern striker Juergen Klinsmann, who scored three goals against Raiters, will have a far tougher

time against Benfica. "Bayern Munich is a very difficult team," Benfica vice president Jose Gaspar Ramos said after the draw. "The quality of this match will be that of a semifinal, but we have a 50 per cent chance."

Bayern Munich official Karl Hopfner said, "Benfica is a big name. It's no dream draw, but I am confident."

AC Milan and Barcelona, two more favourites to win

the title, stayed apart in the draw. Milan faces Sparta Prague of the Czech Republic, while Barcelona was drawn against another Spanish club, Seville.

Nottingham Forest, the only English team still in contention to win any of the three European competitions, had to beat one French club, Auxerre, in the last round and now faces another, Lens, faces the other Prague club, Slavia.

PSV Eindhoven, which crushed England's Leeds 8-3 on aggregate, now must face Werder Bremen while the third French team to make it, Lens, faces the other Prague club, Slavia.

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Holyfield and Bowe have the spotlight now

LAS VEGAS (R) — Now that the other show up the block has been shut down, Riddick Bowe and Evander Holyfield are set as the main attraction on Saturday night in the rubber match of their best-of-three heavyweight world series.

For once, especially rare in the heavyweight division, two of the best fighters will test their skills against each other instead of looking to pad their records and egos with easy paydays.

Until Tuesday, when Mike Tyson's fight with lightly regarded Buster Mathis, Jr. was cancelled due to Tyson's broken thumb, the two fights were to be held on the same night about a mile apart.

But now Bowe-Holyfield has the spotlight in what could turn out to be the best fight of the year.

The two former heavyweight champions are fighting for a lot of money, but also to establish one of them as the best heavyweight in the world, despite the often outrageously unfair rankings of the major boxing organisations, which have failed to rank either man.

But in recognition of the quality of the scheduled 12-round bout at Caesars Palace, the New York Daily News says it will give the winner a title belt.

It's fitting, says Holyfield, that Saturday's fight be seen as "the true heavyweight fight. Don't nobody want to fight Bowe, don't nobody want to fight me."

In their first bout in November 1992, Bowe took the championship from Holyfield in a decision after 12 rounds, but remembered for a spectacular 10th round in which the two men stood toe-to-toe furiously pummelling each other.

Bowe defended his title twice — in easy fights against Michael Dokes and Jessie Ferguson — before he fought Holyfield again a year after their first battle.

But Bowe entered the ring 11 pounds (5 kg) heavier at a soft 246 pounds (111.6 kg), and Holyfield scraped by with a majority decision to regain his World Boxing Association and International Boxing Federation titles.

That fight perhaps is best remembered for the "fan man" — a para-glider who landed on

the ring apron at Caesar in the seventh round, delaying the bout for about 20 minutes.

Holyfield went on to lose the title to Michael Moore and briefly retired after it was suspected that he had a heart problem. But it apparently was a false alarm.

Bowe (37-1) is coming off an impressive sixth-round knockout of Cuban Jorge Gonzales last June.

Holyfield (31-2), who is expected to weigh about 215 pounds (97.5 kg) to Bowe's 245

pounds (111.6 kg), says he'll knock out Bowe. "I'm just taking Bowe out. It is my faith in God that allows me to know that I'm going to knock Bowe out," said Holyfield, who will receive \$9 million for the fight.

Bowe will be paid about \$7 million, plus a cut of the pay-per-view take.

Bowe said he "can appreciate Evander's confidence but that's just wishful thinking ... I'm hoping that's what he comes in hoping to do."

"I realise now Evander can't get away from my jab, so that's what I should do," said Bowe, who at his best, has one of boxing's best jabs, helped considerably by his four-inch (10 cm) reach advantage over Holyfield.

But recognising Holyfield's tremendous desire, the 6-foot-5 (1.95 metre) Bowe added, "I'm not going to short-change myself. He is a Bengal tiger."

Bowe, quick to laugh and playfully tease everyone, has not been completely able to win over the very serious, Holyfield, whom Bowe constantly calls a "gargoyle," effectively getting under the proud Holyfield's skin.

Holyfield, who stands 6-foot-2 (1.87 m), is very critical of what he calls Bowe's dirty tactics.

"He does it all the time," Holyfield said. "He hits behind the head often, cheap shots and all that. That all takes away from his ability. The man does have a lot of ability but he takes shortcuts and fouls somebody which possibly can hurt somebody."

Bowe counters by saying Holyfield has burned him, and besides "things happen, he should grow up and stop being a baby."

Britain's top tennis player to retire

TELFORD, England (AP) — Jeremy Bates, Britain's top tennis player for most of the past decade, said he plans to retire after Wimbledon next year.

Bates, 33, was supplanted as the British No. 1 last summer when Canadian-born Greg Rusedski switched allegiance to Britain and took over the top spot.

Bates made his announcement at the British national championships, where he is the defending six-time champion.

"There is no particular reason why I have decided the time is right to start winding down my career other than I think the time has come to stop playing and move on," said Bates, who retired from Davis Cup competition earlier this year.

"I think you get a feel for this type of thing. I plan to reduce my schedule starting in the new year and to look at other options. I hope my career has benefitted British tennis and I hope to return the support I received in the years to come."

Bates, who turned pro in 1982, won the Wimbledon mixed doubles title with Jo Durie in 1987 and the Australian Open mixed with the same partner in 1991.

The highpoint of Bates' singles career came in 1992 when he reached the last 16 at Wimbledon for the first time, gaining a match point before losing to Guy Forget of France. Bates also made it to Wimbledon's last 16 in 1994, again losing to Forget.

Bates won his only ATP tournament, the South Korean Open, in 1994, he became the first British player to win any event since 1977.

Bates reached his highest world ranking, 54, last April. He is currently ranked No. 147.

Bates became British No. 1 in 1988 and held the position until Rusedski opted to play for Britain earlier this year.

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE APOSTOLIC NUNCIATURE For unpredicted reasons, which have forbidden the Apostolic Nuncio to arrive in Amman it was decided to postpone the reception on the occasion of the 17th anniversary of the enthronement of His Holiness Pope John Paul II from Saturday 4th of November 1995 to a later date.

The American Center of Oriental Research (ACOR) has been given a grant by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to construct a protective, membrane-covered space frame shelter over an archaeological site at Petra.

ACOR seeks a single source vendor for engineering the space frame, the membrane roof, supporting columns and foundation; fabrications of all components; transportation of all materials to the site; and erection of the cover.

The space frame will be of an all aluminium hub and spoke system, coated with Kynar paint of custom color. The membrane will be poly-vinyl with teflon coating (7.5 oz/yd. minimum weight fabric with custom color).

Qualified vendors may obtain bid documents from The American Center of Oriental Research (ACOR), P.O.Box 2470, Jabal Amman, Amman 11181 Jordan, Tel. 846-117, 841-132; Fax 844-181. Bids must be received by noon, December 6, 1995.

CINEMA TEL: 634144 PHILADELPHIA

Jean Reno,
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Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

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Women considering boycott of Australian Open

OAKLAND (R) — Former Women's Tennis Association President Pam Shriver said Thursday that players are considering boycotting the 1996 Australian Open if the tournament does not raise the women's prize money to equal the men's.

"It's not something we want to do, but we did talk about it in our players' meeting two weeks ago," Shriver told Reuters after her match at the Bank of the West Classic.

"We are very uneasy about setting a precedent for the other Grand Slams to do the same thing. This has really struck a nerve with our players."

Tennis Australia, which recently announced it would increase total prize money for the men at the 1996 event, leaving the women to earn less than their male counterparts except for the women's singles finalists.

The International Tennis Federation signed an agreement in September with the men's ATP Tour that the Grand Slams would double the prize money of an average ATP Super Nine event in exchange for a guarantee that Grand Slam results would rate double the amount of computer points in world rankings.

Tennis Australia, which could not afford to increase both purses equally, said its decision was justified because the women's sessions at the January event do not sell out and their television ratings are lower.

"I'm consulting with lawyers in Australia to see whether or not there is a legal basis for a challenge," Shriver said.

"The question is whether you can establish equal prize

money over a long period of time and

Chernomyrdin gets some Yeltsin powers

MOSCOW (R) — Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said on Friday he had assumed partial control over key ministers while President Boris Yeltsin recovers from a heart attack.

He said he has been "coordinating" the work of the ministers of defence, security, foreign and the interior — the first admission that Mr. Yeltsin has given up some presidential powers.

The four, known as Russia's "power ministers," report directly to Yeltsin, who was rushed to hospital on Oct. 26 after his second mild heart attack in less than four months.

"The president has to be partially relieved of these duties to give him a better chance to recover," Mr. Chernomyrdin told a news conference after seeing Mr. Yeltsin in hospital. "But of course we seek the president's advice on all key questions."

The 57-year-old prime minister, who under the constitution would take over as temporary head of state if Mr. Yeltsin was incapacitated,

said, "I am glad Boris Nikolayevich is getting better and is working on documents."

Asked if it was Mr. Yeltsin who asked him to take over some control of the power ministers, the premier replied: "I could see it in his eyes that Chernomyrdin should work harder."

Mr. Yeltsin, in his first

meeting with the prime minister at Moscow's Central Clinical Hospital, also discussed the torrid campaign for the Dec. 17 election.

The Kremlin chief called for fair play in the run-up to December parliamentary elections that have been thrown into chaos by a decision to ban the leading Liberal Party Yabloko.

Meanwhile, Yabloko leader Grigory Yavlinsky appealed to the supreme court to overrule the electoral ban.

"Yabloko is defending here the people's right to choose, the right to have free elections and ... after all the right to bring about a legal change of power," Mr. Yavlinsky told the single judge.

Italians prepare to try Priebe

ROME (Agencies) — Military prosecutors in Rome said Friday they were stepping up preparations so they can try former Nazi Erich Priebe as quickly as possible after he is extradited here from Argentina.

Chief Military Prosecutor Antonio Intelisano said his office was still awaiting confirmation from Argentina of the extradition.

The Argentine Supreme Court accepted Thursday Italy's demand for the one-time SS captain, who will be tried here for his part in the massacre of 335 Italians more than half a century ago.

"We are in the process of making preparations independently of the extradition to start as quickly as possible the jurisdictional phase to get the trial opened," Mr. Intelisano said.

He said the former Nazi would be held in preventive detention upon his arrival in Italy.

Mr. Priebe, who has lived in the southwestern Argentine resort town of San Carlos de Bariloche for the past 46 years, has acknowledged taking part in the March 22, 1944, Ardeatine Caves killings of 335 Italian civilians including 77 Jews in reprisal for an attack on the German army.

Mr. Priebe has admitted killing "one or two" of the hostages and said he agreed with the orders to execute the others.

The extradition could lead to Italy's most emotional war crimes trial in decades.

"It will be a day of light for justice, a day of sunlight," said former Justice Minister Giovanni Conso, who signed an international arrest warrant for Priebe after he was discovered living in Argentina in 1994.

The Argentine court's decision ended 17 months of legal wrangling and overturned the decision of an appeals court in August to rule against his extradition.

The previous ruling outraged Italy, Germany and the Jewish community and fuelled charges that Argentina was still a haven for Nazis.

"What is most important is that (Argentina) has recognised Italy's right to have the chance to put on trial a person who took part in one of the worst human tragedies," Mr. Conso told Italian Radio.

Tulia Zevi, president of Italy's Jewish communities, welcomed the Argentine supreme court's decision.

"The extradition is positive for the image of both Italy, which seeks justice for its victims, and for Argentina, which in past showed too much tolerance in accepting and supporting tens, if not hundreds, of Nazis and escaping fascists," she said.

Mr. Priebe says he was acted on the orders of Gestapo chief Herbert Kappler when he took part in the reprisal murders. The victims, most of them members of the Italian resistance, were bound and shot in the back of the neck.

Lubbers confirms NATO candidacy

THE HAGUE (AFP) —

Former Dutch Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers formally announced his candidacy Friday for the post of NATO secretary general in a move which would appear to strengthen his position as firm favourite to take over the reins of the Atlantic alliance.

In a statement published here, the Dutch government said Mr. Lubbers had indicated he was "available" to take up the top civilian job at the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and had "agreed to be a candidate."

"It's in the bag," one diplomat said here of the Lubbers candidacy. "The Dutch must have got a green light from the Americans for their candidate otherwise they would never have gone ahead like that after weeks of secret negotiations."

The announcement was made after Mr. Lubbers returned from a series of consultations with top U.S. officials in Washington, telling reporters at Amsterdam's

Schiphol airport that "they were good meetings."

Mr. Lubbers' main rival for the post, former Danish Foreign Minister Uffe Ellermann-Jensen, was also in Washington to meet senior officials Friday, and still appears to have the backing of certain elements within the U.S. State Department.

In Copenhagen on Friday, U.S. ambassador to Denmark Edward Elson was quoted in the conservative daily *Jyllands-Posten* as strongly recommending Mr. Ellermann-Jensen as the preferred candidate.

The Dane had breakfast with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher Friday and was due to visit the White House later in the day, as Mr. Lubbers had done Thursday.

But Mr. Ellermann-Jensen's chances were considered to have been dashed after he criticised France for resuming nuclear testing, since when Paris has strongly opposed the Danish candidate and supported Mr. Lubbers.

Iraq praises UAE president's call for end to U.N. sanctions

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq

beated praise on Friday for Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) who has said the time for Arab reconciliation and the lifting of sanctions against Baghdad has come.

"Ahlan Wasahlan Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan in Baghdad," declared the ruling Baath Party newspaper Al Thawra in a banner headline.

In conciliatory remarks last month Sheikh Zayed, whose country joined the U.S.-led alliance against Iraq in the 1991 Gulf war, urged Arab countries to "try to turn the page of the past and cooperate" to alleviate the suffering of the Iraqi people under U.N. sanctions.

Al Thawra interpreted his remarks by saying that Sheikh Zayed was telling the Iraqis that he shared their suffering and that they were not alone in efforts to find a way out.

Since Iraq recognised Kuwait with new borders demarcated by the United Nations, Baghdad has tried

to improve relations with Gulf Arabs.

Iraqi officials say they have partly succeeded with Qatar, Oman and Bahrain, and Sheikh Zayed's remarks were bound to help melt the remaining ice.

Iraqi president Saddam Hussein was congratulated by Sheikh Zayed on his overwhelming victory in last month's referendum in which he was the sole candidate and won 99.96 per cent of the vote.

The official press said on Friday that the Arab League's secretary-general, Esmat Abdul Meguid, who endorsed Sheikh Zayed's call, would soon tour Arab countries to prepare the ground for pan-Arab reconciliation.

Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahia visited Baghdad on Wednesday and discussed Arab reconciliation with Iraq.

GIA leader organised French blasts from London, police say

PARIS (AFP) — A leader of Algeria's fundamentalist Armed Islamic Group (GIA) in France has been arrested after a bombing campaign in France from a base in London, French police alleged Friday.

The leader, whose pseudonym was given as Abu Fares, gave orders to 28-year-old Algerian Boualem Bensaid, who was arrested in Paris late Wednesday in a police swoop, police said.

They said they had tapped the telephone of Bensaid, who passed on the orders to bombing groups in France. Police said they had been unable to establish Abu Fares' real identity.

Earlier, press reports said that Abu Fares also supervised the English edition of the GIA newsletter, Al Ansar.

The newspaper added: "In

parallel with this ideological activity, Britain has also been transformed into an impressive fund-raising network for financing Algerian extremists."

Meanwhile French police

said that Bensaid's fingerprints bore a strong resemblance to those found on a gas canister that exploded in Paris last month.

The fingerprints were

found on sticky tape on the gas canister that went off outside the *Maison Blanche* metro station on Oct. 6 hours after the funeral near Lyon of suspected bomber Khalid Kelkal, slightly injuring 12 people.

Kelkal, 24, was gunned

down by police on Sept. 29 in

a hamlet also called *Maison Blanche*, west of Lyon.

Police said the fingerprints of Bensaid, who was arrested after allegedly ordering the bombing of a busy market in Lille, northern France, next Sunday, were "of the same family" as those on the canister.

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